

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 091551Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2379

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: PRAVDA ON THE DETENTE/ELECTION CAMPAIGN NEWS

1.SUMMARY PRAVDA CONTINUES TO NURTURE THE CONCEPT --
OR MISCONCEPTION -- THAT RECENT DIFFICULTIES
IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS CAN ALL BE WRITTEN OFF TO
THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN,AND WILL PASS WHEN IT DOES.
LATEST AND ONE OF THEM MOST BLATANT EXAMPLES IS A TASS
REPORT IN PRAVDA APRIL 9 ON TASS CORRESPONDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH
GEORGE GALUP. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TASS REPORT HAS GALLUP SAYING THAT "THE MAJORITY
OF AMERICANS YEARN FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE POLICY OF
PEACE AND DETENTE" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR. "NO
MATTER WHAT TERMINOLOGY IS USED TO DEFINE THIS POLICY,"
IT IS IMPORTANT,SAYS GALLUP ACCORDING TO TASS, THAT
AMERICANS WANT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS TO LESSEN TEN-
SION, STOP THE ARMS RACE,AND RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE REPORT ASSERTS THAT GALLUP SAYS
THAT "COLOSSAL CHANGES" HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE VIEW
THE AMERICAN POPULACE HAS OF THE SOVIET UNION SINCE THE COLD
WAR, AND THEN PARAPHRASES HIM AS SAYING THAT "SOVIET
FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS AIM OF REDDUCING INTERNATIONAL
TENSION HAS PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN THIS PROCESS."

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3. GALLUP CONTINUES, ACCORDING TO TASS, THAT "DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN CERTAIN POLITICIANS IN THE U.S. SPEAK FROM ANTI-SOVIET POSITIONS. BUT THEIR ASSERTION AND SLOGANS DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF THE MASS OF THE POPULATION." "AMERICAN," HE ALLEGEDLY CONTINUED, " WISH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS-- POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SPORTS."

4. COMMENT: THIS REPORT IS ONE OF THE CLEAREST EXAMPLES WE HAVE SEEN OF SOVIET MEDIA SUCCUMBING TO THE IDEA THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE ENTIRELY CAUSED BY THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE OBVIOUS POLICY CONCLUSION TO DRAW FROM SUCH A MISINTERPRETATION OF REALITY IS TO BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PREVIOUS "PRINCIPLED POSITIONS," AND WEATHER OUT THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN STORM--WHEREUPON, ONE ASSUMES, THE SUN WILL AGAIN BREAK THROUGH THE CLOUDS ON NOVEMBER 3.

5. WE MUST ALSO ADMIT TO SOME DOUBT THAT DR. GALLUP ASCRIBED THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE U.S. PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE SOVIET UNION TO PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ARTICLE TO DR. GALLUP'S ATTENTION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTE, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW05581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760136-0524
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760478/aaaacope.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA ON THE DETENTE/ELECTION CAMPAIGN NEWS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, PRAVDA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006